

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes of the August 4-5, 1998 ISTAC open meeting.

The ISTAC met in open session and the first item of discussion was 3D vector rates and graphics performance. 3D vector rates are a metric that must be measured, a type of benchmark. In the absence of any documented assumptions, it appears that everybody makes their own assumptions and therefore the parameter is not measured in a consistent fashion between manufacturers. There is also a growing concern that the manufacturers of "PC games graphics", who have always used different benchmarks, may now have performance approaching the 3D vector control parameter.

The ISTAC had requested input from the public on this item, but none was forthcoming.

Another related issue is the apparent dichotomy of being able to ship workstations with a performance of less than 2000 MTOPS under NLR regardless of the power of the graphics card. But, if the graphics card exceeds 3 M 3D vectors, the individual card may require a license when it is shipped by itself.

Mr. Bruce Kutz reviewed the changes to license exception KMI. The highlights are:

- Any bit length encryption to financial institutions.
- No customer to customer transactions.
- Strong encryption, with or without recovery, to 45 countries.
- One time product review.
- Other countries will require product review and license exception reporting.

A member of the public asked the ISTAC to address the following chip control level problem:

- Current Wassenaar chip control levels are 260 MTOPS.
- Current US license exception CIV control limit is 500 MTOPS.
- The 450 MHz Intel chip that PC manufacturers will start shipping in quantity in September or October has a CTP rating of over 500. (525 was quoted)

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee

The ISTAC will address this problem and make a recommendation to BXA.

Norman D. Cowder
ISTAC Chairman

Open Session